

CLAIMS:

1. A method for wrapping an article with a heat shrinkable polymeric film comprising:
 - (a) providing a polymeric film produced by a process including stretching said film mainly in its longitudinal direction, said stretching being by means comprising at least one pair of rollers rotating in mutually different linear velocities, the gap between said rollers being at least 10 times smaller than the width of said film to obtain a heat shrinkable polymeric film;
 - (b) surrounding at least a portion of the outer surface of said article with a portion of said heat shrinkable polymeric film; and
 - (c) heating said heat shrinkable polymeric film so as to shrink it around said article.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said gap is smaller than the width of said film by a factor of between 10 and 5000.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said factor is between 50 and 2500.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said wrapping around is carried out in the *wrap around* method.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said wrapping is made in the sleeve method.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said article is a container.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said container is cylindrical.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said cylindrical container is of non-uniform diameter.
9. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the shrinkable film is used with its shrinkable dimension in the direction of the film flow.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said film shrinks to between about 90% and about 10% of its original dimension.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said film shrinks to about 40% or less of its original dimensions.
12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said polymeric film comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: polystyrene, polyolefins, polyvinylchloride, polyamides, Polyester, nylon, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof.
13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.
14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said polymer film is capable of acting as a barrier against gas diffusion and/or UV radiation.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said gas is oxygen, nitrogen, air, CO₂ and/or water vapor.
16. An article wrapped according to any one of the preceding claims.
17. An article according to claim 16, having a form of a cylinder with non-uniform diameter.
18. An article according to claim 16, wherein the film wrapped around it is printed to form a label.
19. A method for protecting an article from damaging radiation, comprising wrapping said article in accordance with a method according to any one of claims 1-15.
20. A method for lengthening the shelf life of a product that is sensitive to humidity, oxygen, nitrogen, air, and/or CO₂, comprising wrapping said article in accordance with a method according to any of claims 1-15.
21. A method according to claim 1 comprising:
 - (a) providing a polymeric film produced by a process including stretching said film mainly in its longitudinal direction, said stretching being by means comprising at least one pair of

rollers rotating in mutually different linear velocities, the gap between said rollers being at least 10 times smaller than the width of said film to obtain a heat-shrinkable polymeric film;

- (b) attaching said heat shrinkable polymeric film to at least one polymeric film to obtain a heat shrinkable multilayer
- (c) surrounding at least a portion of the outer surface of said article with a portion of said heat shrinkable multilayer; and
- (d) heating said heat shrinkable multilayer so as to shrink it around said article.

22. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the attaching mentioned in (b) is carried out by lamination.

23. A method according to claim 21, wherein the attaching mentioned in (b) is carried out by coextrusion.

24. A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric film is composed of a plurality of layers attached to each other to produce a multilayer.

25. A polymeric sheet that is unidirectionally shrunk in the machine direction to 50% or less of its original dimension.

26. A polymeric sheet according to claim 25, shrunk in the machine direction to 40% or less of its original dimension.

27. A polymeric sheet made of polyolefin, unidirectionally shrunk in the machine direction to 70% or less of its original dimension.

28. A polymeric sheet according to claim 27, wherein said shrink is to 60% or less of the original dimension.

29. An article wrapped with a polymeric sheet in a wrap-around method along a first and a second location, the circumference in said first location being smaller in 50% or more than a circumference in the second location.

30. An article wrapped with a polymeric sheet in a wrap-around method along a first and a second location, the circumference in said first location being smaller in 30% or more than a circumference in the second location, characterized in that said polymeric sheet is olefinic.